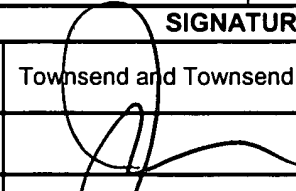
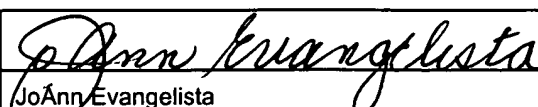
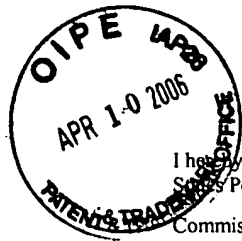
 TRANSMITTAL FORM <small>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</small>	Application Number	10/017,068
	Filing Date	December 13, 2001
	First Named Inventor	PERKINS, RODNEY C.
	Art Unit	3763
	Examiner Name	MENDEZ, MANUEL A
	Attorney Docket Number	017534-000730US
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		6

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Return Postcard		
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Remarks</td> <td>The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 20-1430.</td> </tr> </table>			Remarks	The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 20-1430.
Remarks	The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 20-1430.			

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT			
Firm Name	Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP		
Signature			
Printed name	James M. Heslin		
Date	April 7, 2006	Reg. No.	29,541

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.			
Signature			
Typed or printed name	JoAnn Evangelista	Date	April 7, 2006



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On April 7, 2006

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By:

JoAnn Evangelista
JoAnn Evangelista

TFW
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PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 017534-000730US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

RODNEY C. PERKINS et al.

Application No.: 10/017,068

Filed: December 13, 2001

For: METHODS, SYSTEMS, AND
KITS FOR LUNG VOLUME
REDUCTION

Customer No.: 20350

Confirmation No. 7372

Examiner: MENDEZ, MANUEL A

Technology Center/Art Unit: 3763

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE
COMMUNICATION**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Communication mailed on February 9, 2006, Applicants provide the following comments which clarify the meaning of the phrase "*absorption atelectasis*."

Absorption atelectasis is a well understood phrase in the medical arts. It refers to the tendency for airways in the lungs to collapse when proximally obstructed. When an airway is obstructed, the gasses in the lung region distal to the obstruction will be absorbed into the bloodstream. As the airway is obstructed, replacement gasses will not enter the obstructed, isolated regional lung, and that isolated region will collapse. The process of absorption

PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 017534-000730US

atelectasis, however, is slowed by the presence of nitrogen in the air. Nitrogen is poorly soluble in plasma, and thus is absorbed more slowly than soluble gases, such as oxygen. Thus, by washing the isolated region of a lung with an oxygen-rich gas, as described and claimed in the present application, the process of atelectasis will be promoted and the time needed to achieve lung collapse (which is the objective of the present application) will be decreased.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Heslin
Reg. No. 29,541

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Attachments
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